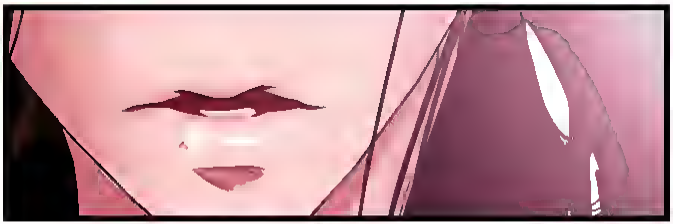


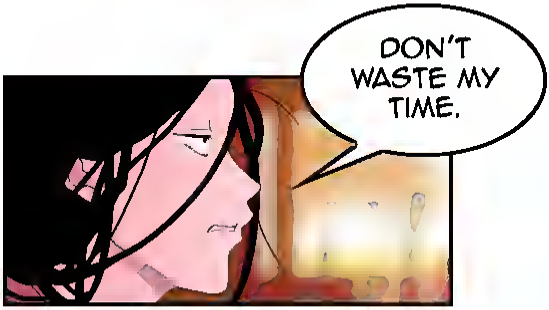
WHATCHA' HIDIN' ?

HOW CAN I HELP YOU, LIEUTENANT?

WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR?

WE COULD DO THIS ALL DAY.

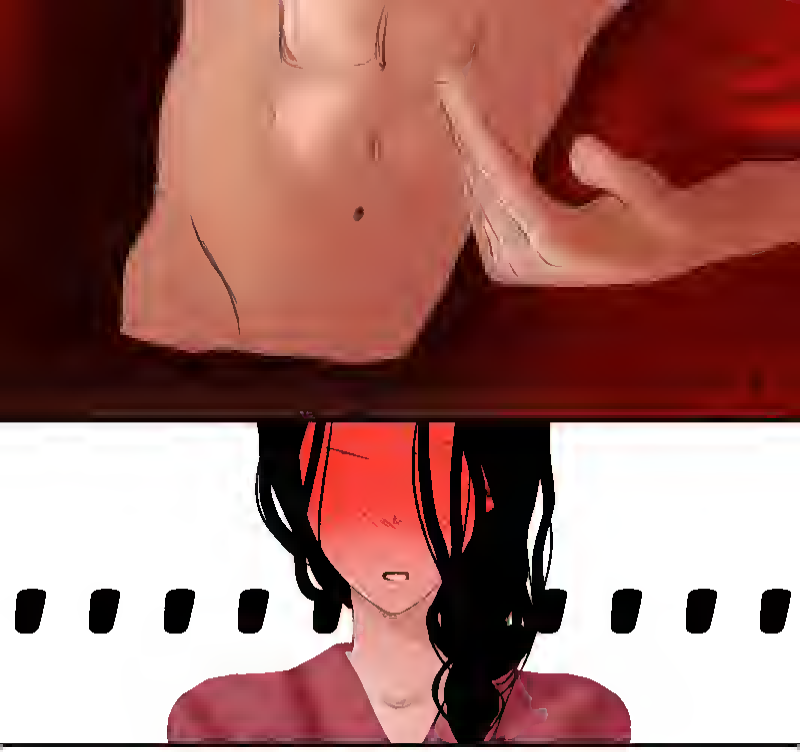

DON'T WASTE MY TIME.

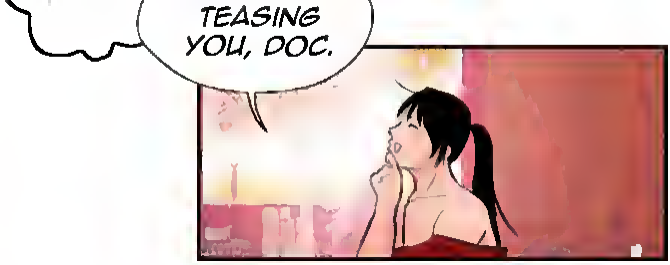
HAHA~
I SUPPOSE I'LL

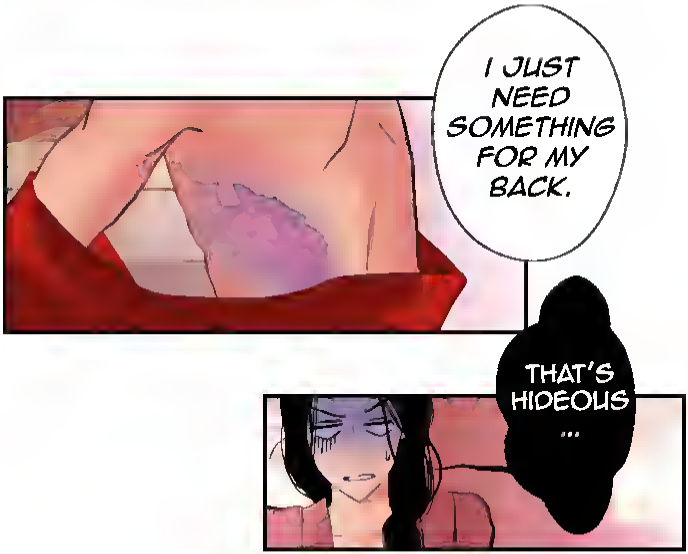
LET IT GO FOR NOW.

I'M ACTUALLY HERE FOR YOUR MEDICINAL KNOWLEDGE.

I'LL NEED A THOROUGH EXAMINATION... YOU UP TO IT?


HAHA HAHA HA!!!
I'M JUST

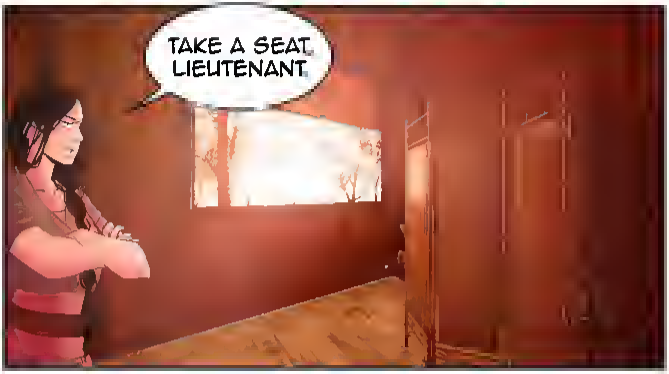

TEASING YOU, DOC.


I JUST NEED SOMETHING FOR MY BACK.
THAT'S HIDEOUS ...

WHO DID THAT TO YOU?

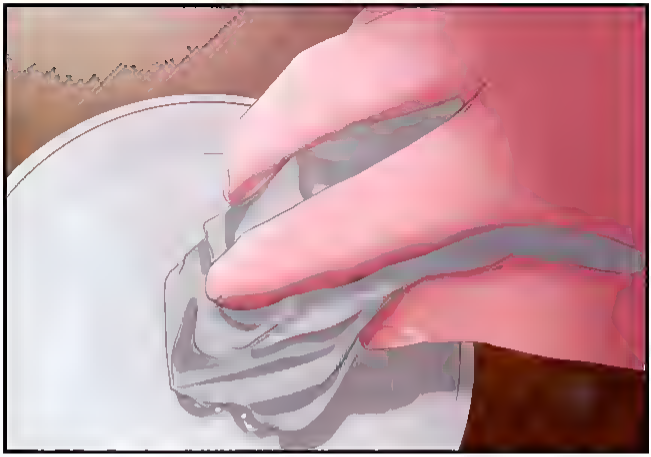
COMES WITH THE JOB... SPARRING INJURY.

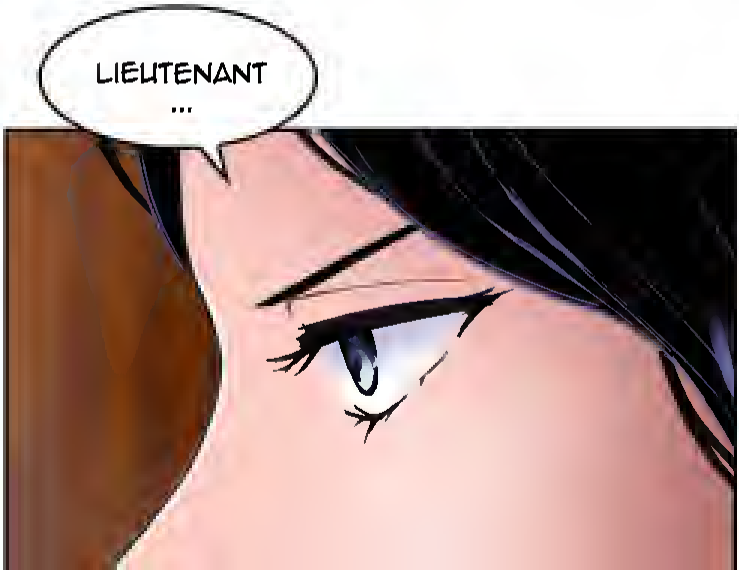
FOLLOW ME.


TAKE A SEAT, LIEUTENANT.

YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO FORMAL.
...ALWAYS "LIEUTENANT" THIS AND "LIEUTENANT"

NOW, HOLD STILL.




LIEUTENANT
...

HM
...?

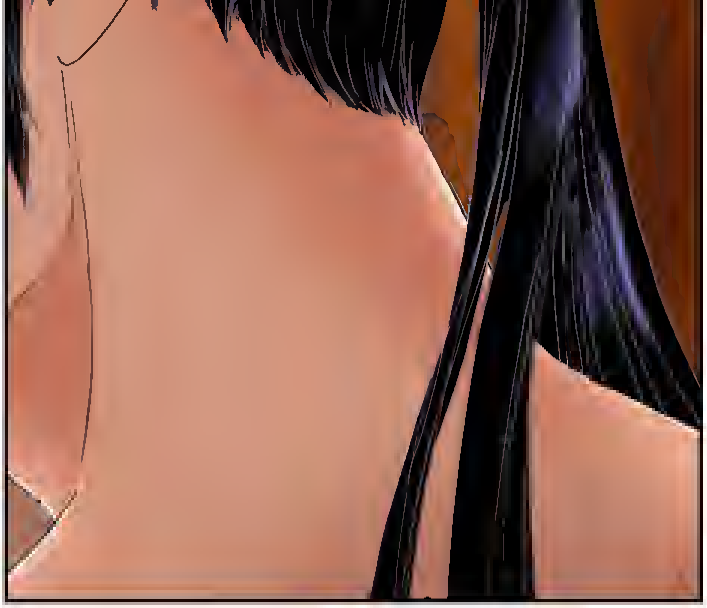
YOU OBVIOUSLY KNEW OF HIM, YET YOU LIED TO ME.
HE'S CLEARLY IN YOUR ARMY.

AHH...
MR. WHITE
HAIR.

SO YOU'VE SPOKEN WITH HIM, HAVE YOU?
...I DID. IN FACT, HE WAS PRESENT AT MY DINNER WITH THE KING LAST NIGHT.

...IS YUUTA THE KING'S RIGHT HAND?

A DINNER WITH THE **DEADLY BLOOD KING**...



AREN'T YOU A LUCKY WOMAN!

HOW WAS HE?

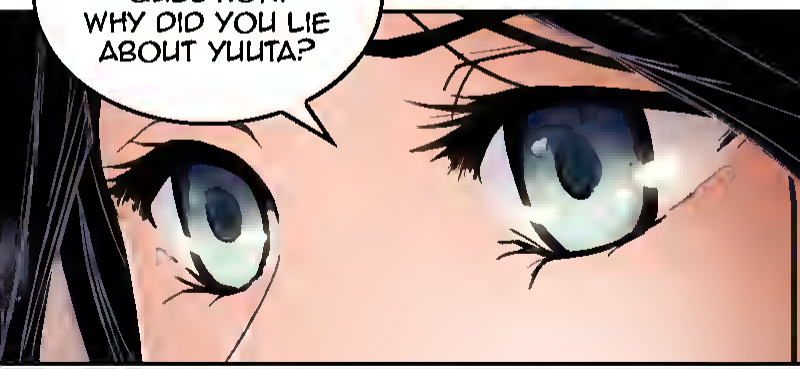
I DON'T KNOW...

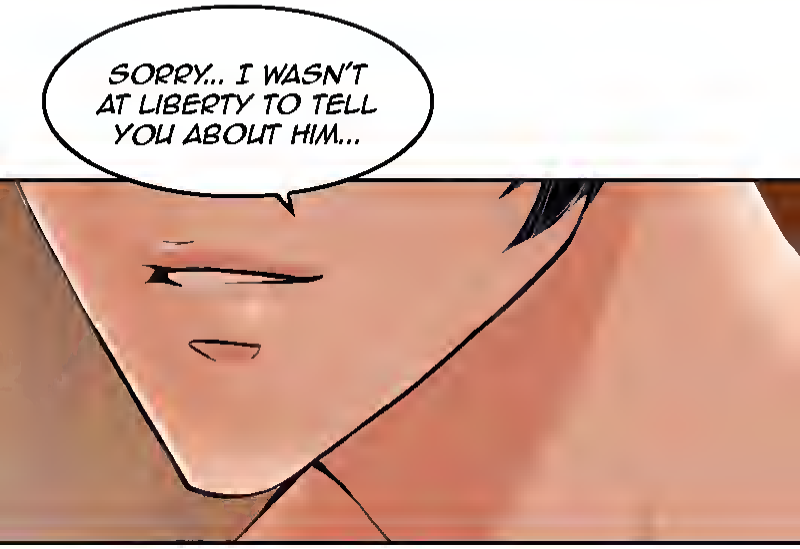
..HE
WAS...
TERRIFYING?

BLOOD-CHILLING GROTESQUE?
...UM... NO...?
HE DID SEEM FAMILIAR...

...BUT I'VE MET HIM BEFORE, SO, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE.

ANYWAYS, YOU AVOIDED MY QUESTION. WHY DID YOU LIE ABOUT YUUTA?



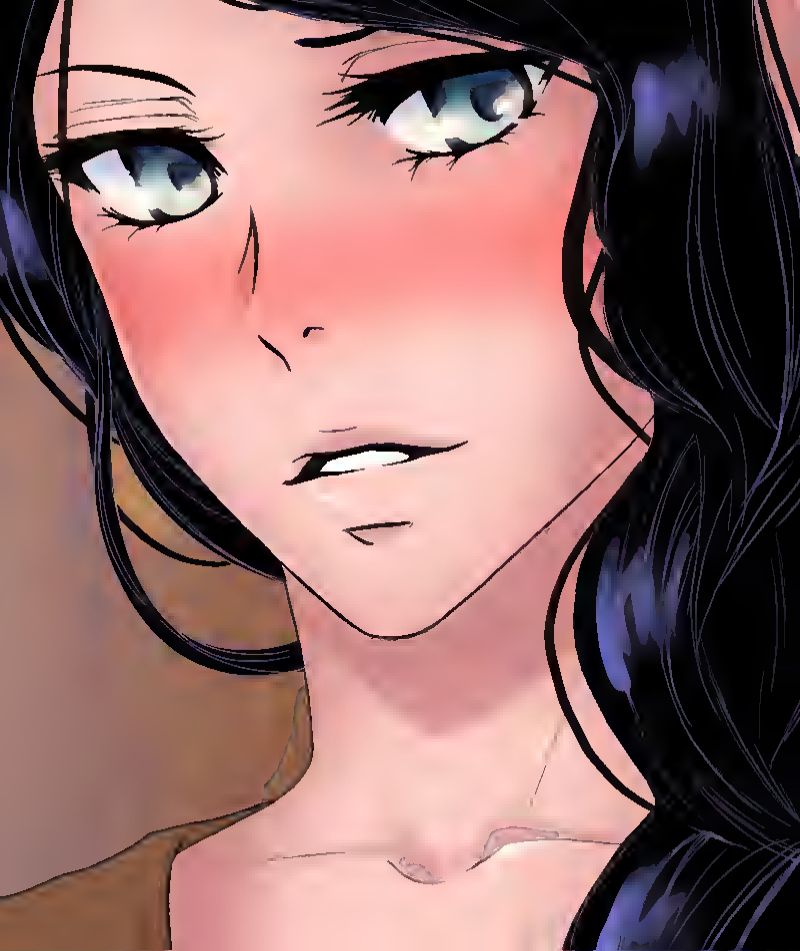

SORRY... I WASN'T AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU ABOUT HIM...

IS IT A SECRET?

WELL, THAT DEPENDS...

...HOW MUCH HAS HE TOLD YOU?
WE'VE ONLY SPOKEN ON A FEW OCCASIONS...

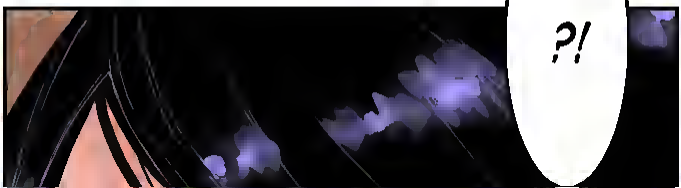
BUT, FROM WHAT LITTLE I DO KNOW OF HIM...
HE'S... PLEASANT ENOUGH COMPANY.



PLEASANT, HM.?

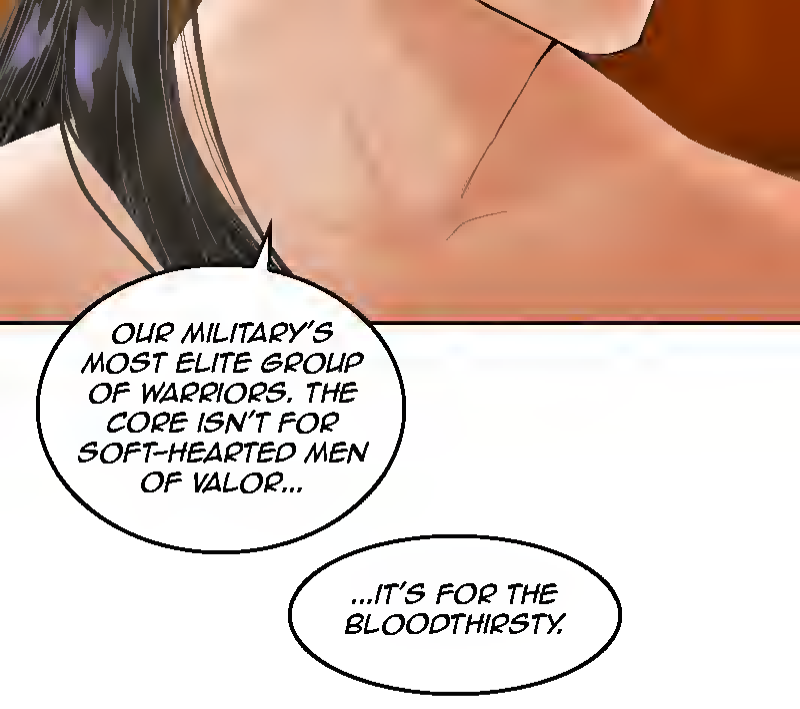
ALREADY SMITTEN FOR THE **BLOODIEST** COMMANDER IN THE ARMY?

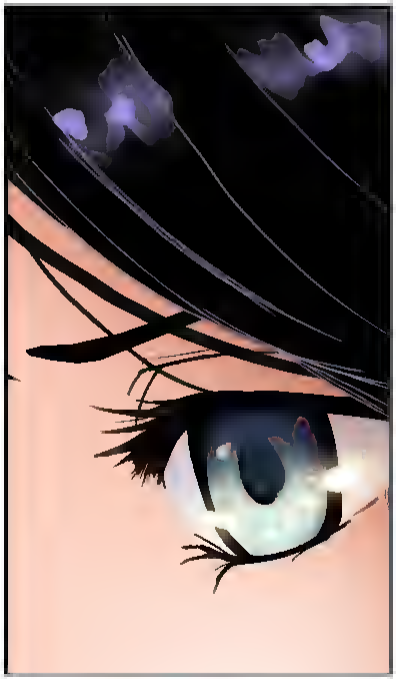
?!



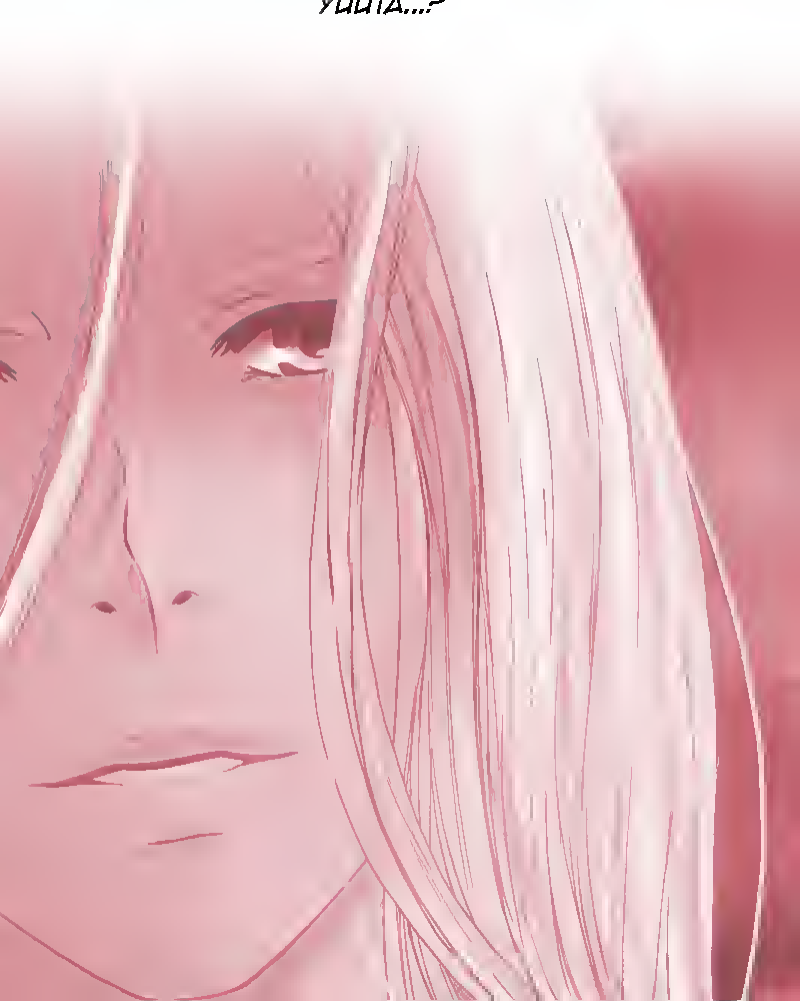
...BLOODIEST...
COMMANDER...?

HE IS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE CORE...


OUR MILITARY'S MOST ELITE GROUP OF WARRIORS. THE CORE ISN'T FOR SOFT-HEARTED MEN OF VALOR...
...IT'S FOR THE BLOODTHIRSTY.



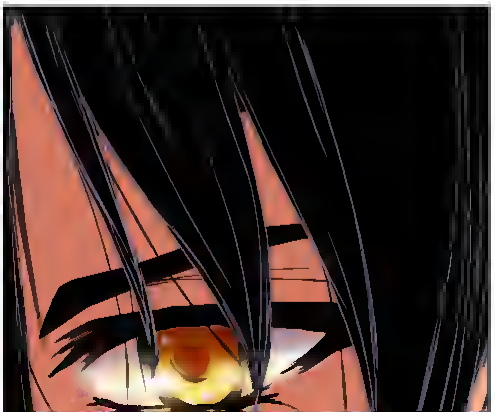
Ушла...?



BLOODTHIRSTY...?

...I GUESS I SHOULD'VE EXPECTED IT.

ANY MAN IN THE BLOOD KING'S ARMY IS CAPABLE OF SUCH TRAITS.



AH... SORRY, I SEEM TO HAVE MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.

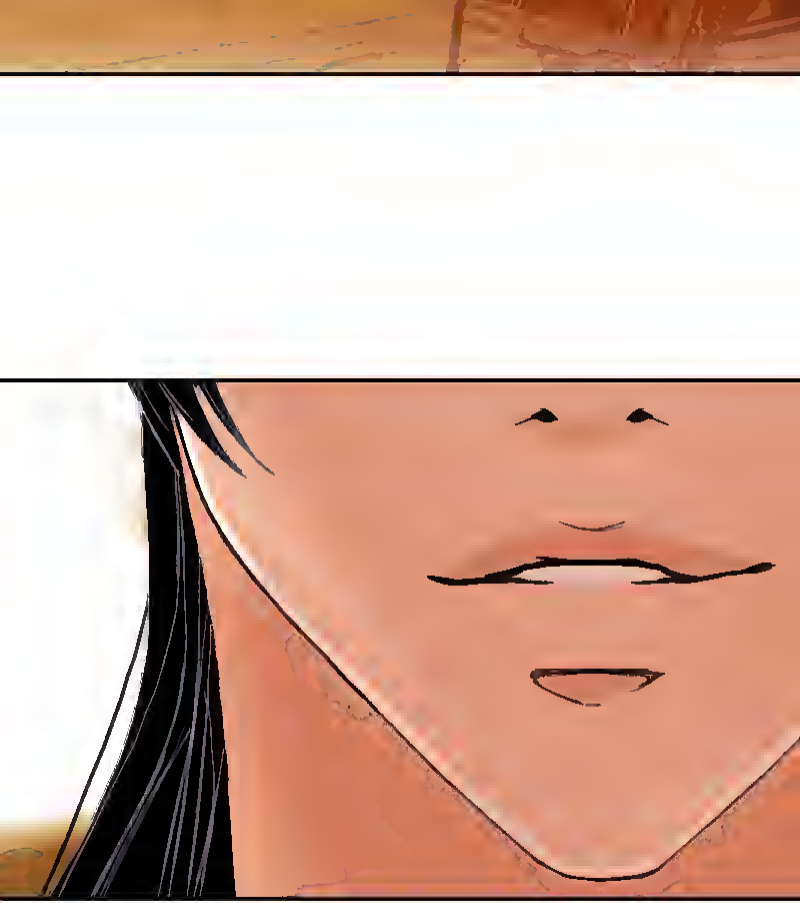
...WHAT... IS THE *CORE*

USED FOR?

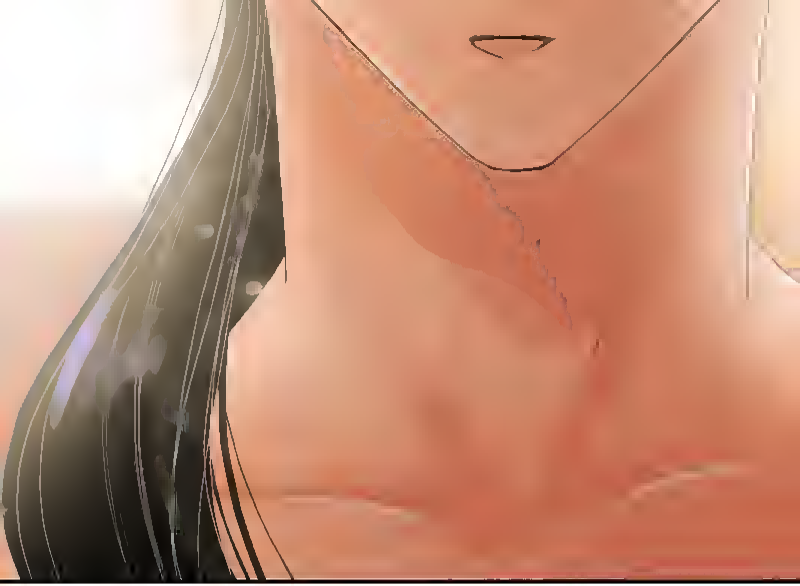
CHUCKLE

...IT'S NOT FOR CIVILIANS TO KNOW ABOUT.

...ARE YOU IN THE CORE... LIEUTENANT?

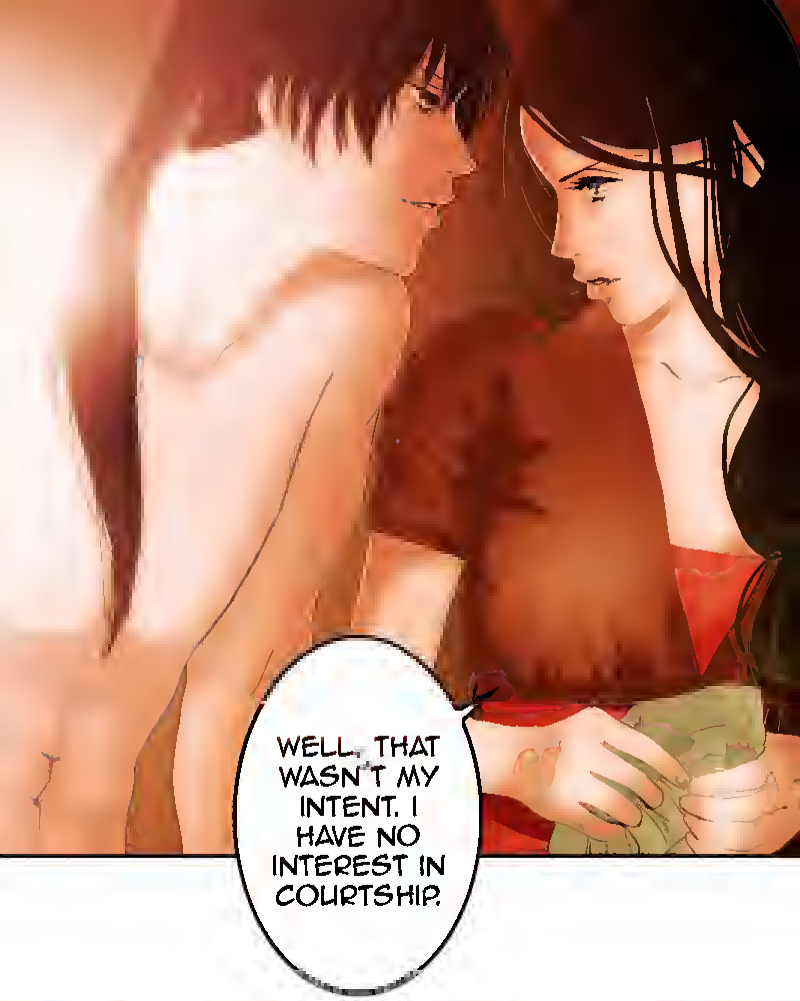


...SO
INQUISITIVE.

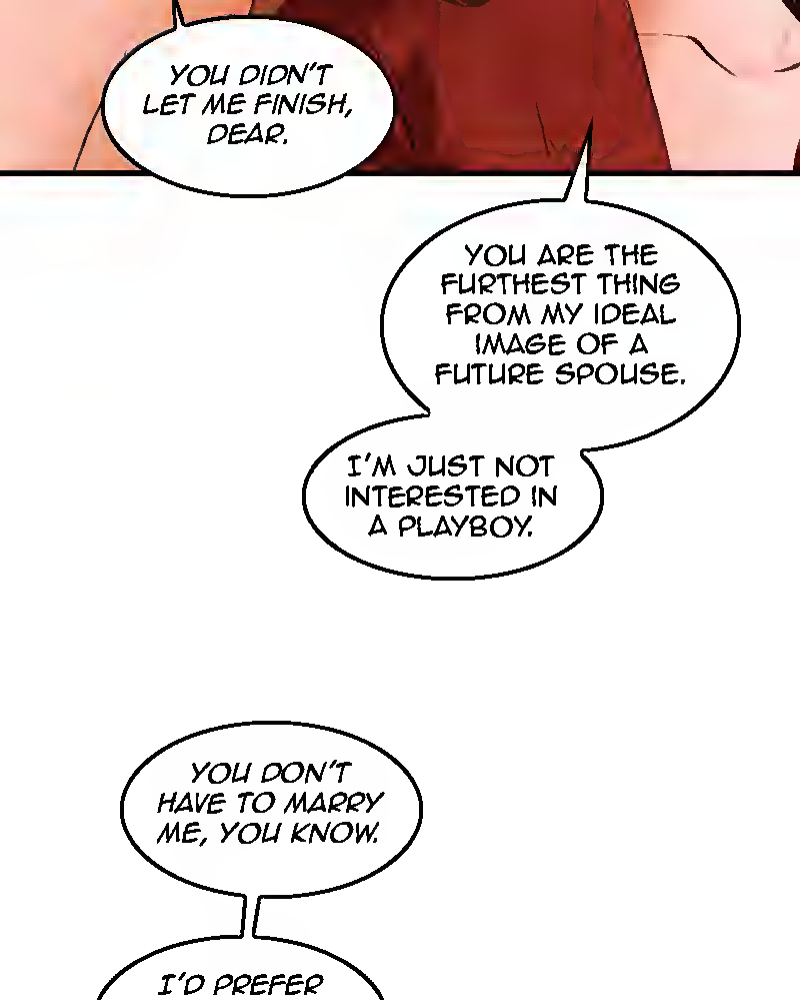


YOU KNOW, IT KIND OF BOTHERS ME...

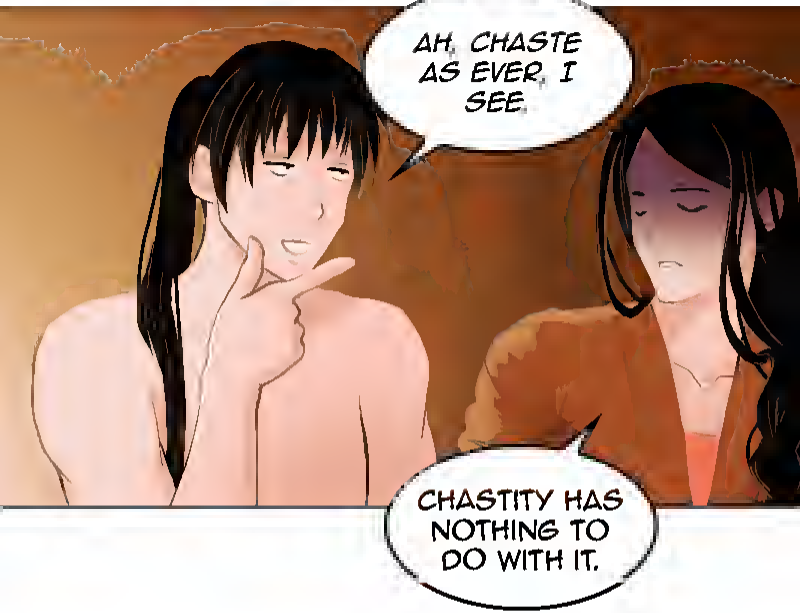
...TO HAVE SEEN YOU BLUSH THINKING ABOUT ANOTHER MAN BESIDES ME.
IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE A MAN JEALOUS.


WELL. THAT WASN'T MY INTENT. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN COURTSHIP.

IS THERE ANY CHANCE YOU AND I... MIGHT EVER
NO.


YOU DIDN'T LET ME FINISH, DEAR.
YOU ARE THE FURTHEST THING FROM MY IDEAL IMAGE OF A FUTURE SPOUSE.
I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED IN A PLAYBOY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MARRY ME, YOU KNOW.
I'D PREFER

THAT I NEVER MARRY, IN FACT.
WE COULD JUST SEE WHERE THIS GOES...?
NO.

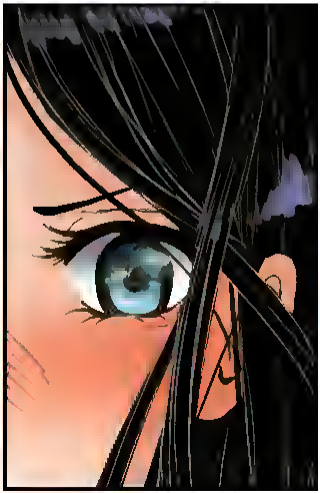


WELL, LUCKY FOR YOU, I LIKE A CHALLENGE.

THOUGH...
I DO HAVE TO
WONDER...

WHAT SORT OF WOMAN WOULD TURN ME DOWN FOR A MAN THAT CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A MORE EXPENSIVE HAIR ORNAMENT...?

WHEN.... DID HE...?



TOO POLITE TO TURN DOWN HIS PALTRY GIFT, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE REALLY TOO KIND.
GIVE IT BACK TO ME *RIGHT NOW*, LIEUTENANT.

NOW, WHO'S THE LUCKY LITTLE PEASANT?

GIVE IT TO ME.

FIRST, TELL ME ABOUT HIM.
GIVE IT BACK NOW !!!

MMRFFH--
STOP MESSING AROUND !!!
HAHA~

COUGH

...UM...

EXCUSE ME FOR...
...INTERRUPTING...

OH~
HELLO
AMBASSADOR.
dont mind us~

OH NO! HE'S TOTALLY GETTING THE WRONG IDEA!!
THIS LIEUTENANT KEEPS MAKING ME ACT LIKE A

CHILD.

HIS HIGHNESS IS HERE TO MEET WITH YOU, MISS KIHARA.

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